



### Taiwan, U.S diplomats meet after official contact ban lifted

Taiwan's representative to Switzerland met with his U.S counterpart the latest Taiwanese diplomat to meet a U.S. official after the U.S. ended its restrictions on official contacts with Taiwan. The meeting was revealed when Edward McMullen, U.S. ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, said he was delighted to officially meet with Taiwan's representative to Switzerland David Huang in a tweet posted on Friday. The United States and Taiwan share common values of freedom, rule of law, and respect for human dignity, McMullen tweeted. Huang, who heads the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Switzerland, said McMullen invited him to meet on Thursday at the U.S. embassy in Switzerland shortly after the U.S. lifted a ban on official contacts with Taiwan. After the restrictions were put to end, Taiwan's representative to the Netherlands Chen Hsing-hsing met with Pete Hoekstra, U.S. ambassador to the European country.

### President congratulates Biden on inauguration, reaffirms partnership

President Tsai Ing-wen congratulated the newly inaugurated U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on their election victories and reaffirmed Taiwan's willingness to work with the new U.S. administration. Tsai conveyed "sincere congratulations" to Biden and Harris on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of China. Taiwan's Representative to the U.S. Hsiao Bi-khim was invited by U.S. Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies to attend the event, becoming the first Taiwanese guest invited by the JCCIC for such an occasion since the two countries severed ties in 1979. In the press statement, Tsai said the U.S. is not just

Taiwan's most important international ally, but also a steadfast partner with whom Taiwan shares the values of freedom and democracy. She noted that both countries have enjoyed close and longstanding political, economic, security and cultural cooperation, adding that this cooperation has advanced the friendship between both peoples and has contributed positively to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

### Taiwan represented at US presidential inauguration for 1st time since 1979

Taiwan was represented in an official capacity at the U.S. presidential inauguration for the first time since the U.S. severed diplomatic ties over 40 years ago. Taiwan's envoy to the U.S., Hsiao Bi-khim attended the inauguration of President Joe Biden on the West Front of the Capitol building. Just before Biden took the oath of office, Hsiao posted a tweet in which she stated it was an honor to represent Taiwan at the inauguration ceremony for President Biden and Vice President Harris. In a video she uploaded in the tweet, Hsiao said: "I'm honored to be here today on behalf of the people and government of Taiwan at the inauguration of the United States President Biden and Vice President Harris. She added that "Democracy is our common language and freedom is our common objective. I look forward to working with the next administration in advancing our mutual values and interests." Hsiao's presence is historic, as it is the first time a representative of the Taiwanese government has been officially invited by the inauguration organizing committee since President Jimmy Carter cut off diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1979.

### Taiwan's health care ranked No. 1 in world for 2021

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Taiwan's health care system has been ranked as the best in the world for the third year running in Numbeo's annual online survey. Under the online database's Health Care Index category for 2021, Taiwan received a score of 86.39 out of 100, a slight drop from its score of 86.71 from last year but higher than the 86.22 mark it received in 2019. This year's score was still more than enough to rank it 1st among the 93 countries on the list. Under the category Health Care Exp Index, Taiwan also took the top spot at 158.95.

### Taiwan reports 10th case from hospital Covid cluster

Taiwan's Central Epidemic Command Center announced one new domestic case and one imported case of the Wuhan coronavirus. CECC head Chen Shih-chung announced one new domestic coronavirus case and one imported infection, bringing the country's total to 870. The latest domestic case is the grandmother of the first nurse diagnosed in the Taoyuan General Hospital cluster infection. Health Minister and Central Epidemic Command Center head Chen Shih-chung announced that a doctor and nurse from a "hospital in northern Taiwan" had tested positive for COVID-19 on Jan. 11. The first case of the cluster was Case No. 838, a physician who had been caring for a Taiwanese male coronavirus patient in his 60s in Taoyuan General Hospital's intensive care unit.